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Army Boss Steers Indonesia Carefully

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JAKARTA.

Indonesia's top military leader kept the big Southeast Asian nation on its anti-Communist course last week but made it clear that the government would remain Leftist and anti-imperialist.

Gen Abdul Haris Nasution, the Defense Minister and chief of staff of the armed forces, told Roman Catholic students Thursday that Communist elements should be purged to "the very roots within all government bodies, both military and civil," because they supported the Sept. 30 coup attempt.

The Antara news agency, reporting this yesterday, said Gen. Nasution added that the Indonesian revolution that won independence from the Dutch after World War II was still "Leftist in the sense that it is against colonialism, imperialism, feudalism and capitalism."

Although Gen. Nasution told newsmen last week after a conference with President Sukarno that "I only execute policy," the General seemed also to be executing his own will.

For instance, Foreign Minister Subandrio, who is seeking to reach a new understanding with Communist China, recently was relieved of staff functions on the important Supreme Operations Command, which is co-ordinating the anti-Communist drive.

And yesterday, President



Herald Tribune—UPI
Gen. Nasution

Sukarno announced the appointment of Vice Marshal Sri Mulyono Herlambang to replace the former Air Force chief, Omar Dhani. Marshal Dhani, who reportedly sided with the Sept. 30 rebels and later went into exile, was a particular object of the military's wrath.

The rebels killed six generals in the first hours of the coup and attempted to assassinate Gen. Nasution. He was only slightly wounded, but his 5-year-old daughter was killed.

"Secret supporters of the coup are still rife," Gen. Nasution warned last week. "They are consolidating their bases for counter-offensives."

In the continuing military push in East and Central Java to hunt down Communist terrorists, seven more have been killed and 120 captured, Antara reported yesterday.

Gen. Nasution has reacted strongly against charges that the armed forces are Right-wing or pro-American.

"The armed forces have been insulted without parallel," he said in West Java. "They have been accused of preparing a coup, of being the tool of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency. We will restore our strength and integrity."

His impassioned remarks were seen as a rebuke to Dr. Subandrio, who made the charge and then retracted it last month.

In a speech to Moslem leaders, President Sukarno demanded "an end to this fighting that divides our country." Since most Moslems support the anti-Communist drive, this was regarded as another Presidential warning that the campaign should slow down. Previous warnings have been ignored.

Despite the obvious involvement of the pro-Peking Indonesian Communist party (PKI) in the Sept. 30 movement, Dr. Subandrio has had several conversations with Yao Chung-ming, the Red Chinese Ambassador in Jakarta.

One thing reportedly bothering Dr. Sukarno is whether

Peking will still give its full support to his long-planned Conference for New Emerging Forces, which is scheduled to be held next summer.



PIX
Dr. Subandrio

This is viewed as a main reason Dr. Sukarno is insisting on restoring good relations with Peking, which was upset by the anti-Communist drive and raids on its own property in Jakarta.

Dr. Sukarno is hoping that Conefo (his neologistic way of referring to the conference) will be a propaganda success on the order of the first Afro-Asian summit meeting at Bandung, Indonesia. The refusal of China to support Conefo could turn it into a failure similar to that of the abortive second Afro-Asian summit, which fizzled at Algiers this year.

This could explain a recent Foreign Ministry official's statement. Referring to the "temporarily disturbed" relations with China, the official declared that "we should remember vital interests and not stumble over small things."

Indonesian military and political leaders are still united in their determination to "crush Malaysia," which they regard as part of a British and American effort to encircle Indonesia and eventually overrun it.

But these leaders do not necessarily agree that neocolonialism (another Sukarno neologism that stands for neocolonialism, colonialism and imperial-

ism) is the greater danger. "We must know who are our friends and who are our enemies" is one of the favorite remarks of military officers these days, and they often smilingly add that CIA really stands for "Chinese Intelligence Agency."

Although President Sukarno said the military was to be responsible only for purges of coup supporters within the armed forces, local military commanders have jailed thousands of civilians and scoured government offices throughout the country in search of documents linking the PI with subversion.

President Sukarno's aim is to continue to hold a balance between the armed forces and elements interested in reconciliation with the Communists. He promises eventually to act against those responsible for the coup attempt, but he recently pointed out through a spokesman that he had to consider the issued in "a global way."